

**From:** bounce-248248-7543697@listserv.state.ma.us on behalf of Governor Deval Patrick <ConstituentServices@state.ma.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 15, 2010 4:34 PM  
**To:** Farak, Sonja (DPH)  
**Subject:** Help for Haiti

[Redacted]

Friends,

We have all been profoundly shocked by the intense tragedy and devastation unfolding in Haiti. Tens of thousands of lives feared lost, a capital city in ruins, hundreds of thousands without food or shelter. All of this in a country that struggled to provide basic services and adequate nutrition even before Tuesday's earthquake.

This disaster hits particularly close to home: more than 43,000 Haitian Americans live in Massachusetts, the third largest Haitian community in the nation.

Throughout our history, Bay Staters have always rushed to help those in need, and this week has been no different. I have already received hundreds of emails and phone calls from teachers and students, community leaders and regular folks, all of them asking how they can help. The outpouring of support is justly commensurate with such overwhelming need.

We have organized information about relief organizations and charities involved in aid efforts, including the Commonwealth's response, at [www.mass.gov/haiti](http://www.mass.gov/haiti).

We have also spoken with the Human Resources Division, who have updated the [Commonwealth of Massachusetts Employee Charitable Campaign](#) (COMECC) to allow those interested to donate a portion of their paychecks to Haiti relief funds.

Please distribute this message to your own email lists and community networks.

With thoughts and prayers for the people of Haiti,

[Redacted]

Deval Patrick